

Above the earth He made the sky. In the sky He put two lights: the sun and the moon. And he told the sun to shine in the day and the moon to shine at night. Then Allah put stars in the night sky and told them to shine brightly to help travellers find their way at night. There are many stars in the sky. Yet each one is different. Some are small and some are very big. Some twinkle gently and some burn brightly. They

are like road signs that guide the travellers to the right place. After that Allah divided the dry land from the seas. He covered the land with greenery: big trees, small bushes, and colourful flowers. He told the rain to water the plants so that they might grow.

10. Allah Created Angels and Jinns

After that He made all kinds of animals. And He filled the seas with fish and other creatures. The world was beautiful. The earth was green. The sky was blue. And the seas were all shades of green and blue. There were many different animals on earth, many different birds in the sky and many different fish in the seas.

Yet Allah wanted the world to be even more beautiful. Allah made the angels. The angels obey Allah in everything. They are His messengers. They carry His commands to all corners of the world. They see to it that the whole world is running as it should: the wind blows where required, the clouds take the rain to the right spots, the rains give water to the fields and gardens.

Then out of flame of fire Allah created jinn. Some jinn are good and some are bad. Some of them are believers and some unbelievers. Finally Allah decided to make a human being. He collected every kind of soil. He mixed it like a potter's clay. He molded it into the shape of man and breathed His spirit into it. He named the first man Adam. Then Allah made the first woman and named her Hawwa, or Eve. Allah made the beautiful world. And He gave it to man to live in.

Suddenly a bolt of lightning flashed. It burnt the sheep offered by Habil. But it did not touch the crops offered by Qabil. Allah had accepted the sheep offered by Habil and not by Qabil! This made Qabil very angry.

He began to fight with Habil. He shouted: "This is your fault! I will kill you!"



Habil loved Allah very much. He always had fear of Allah in his heart. Habil said to Qabil: "You are not afraid of Allah. How can Allah accept your sacrifice? Fear Allah and Allah will be happy with you."

Qabil's face darkened with anger and his heart became hardened: "No," he cried. "I will kill you!" At this threat from his elder brother, Habil did not shout back. He just said calmly: "Even if you raise your hand to kill me, I will not fight back, for I fear Allah, the Lord of the Worlds."

21. The Raven Teaches Qabil

Qabil became ashamed of his action. He started to cry. He was full of regrets. He did not know what to do with the corps of his brother.

Allah sent a black raven. The raven scratched the ground and showed Qabil how to bury his brother.

Allah is happy with people who fear Him. Allah does not like it when we fight and harm others.

The moral of this story is that two believers should never fight with each other.







40. Birds Brought Back to Life after Death

To strengthen his faith, the Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام once asked Allah to show him how He gave life after death. Allah then commanded him to take four birds and train them to return to him. Then He asked him to place each one of them on top of different hills. Next, Allah told him to call the birds. The Prophet Ibrahim did as commanded, called the birds and they immediately flew to him. This reassured him that one day, Allah will revive the dead and we all have to return to Him.

41. The Birth of Ismail and Ishaq

The Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام all along his life told people to bow to Allah, not to stone and statues. He travelled from one village to another and told the people about Allah.

The Prophet Ibrahim did not have any offspring. He and his wife Sarah travelled to Haran, and then to Palestine. Then from Palestine he went to Egypt.

Then, the Prophet Ibrahim married an Egyptian lady whose name was Hajar. From her a son was born who was called Ismail عليه السلام, who later became a Prophet.

One day, angels called on the Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام and told him that her first wife Sarah will soon bear a son. Both, Ibrahim and his wife Sarah, became very happy!

Sarah could not believe her ears! For long she had wanted a son. Sarah and Ibrahim had become old. But Allah blessed them with a son at old age. They named their son Ishaq who also became a Prophet.

Thus, Allah blessed the prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام with two sons: the Prophet Ismail and the Prophet Ishaq.

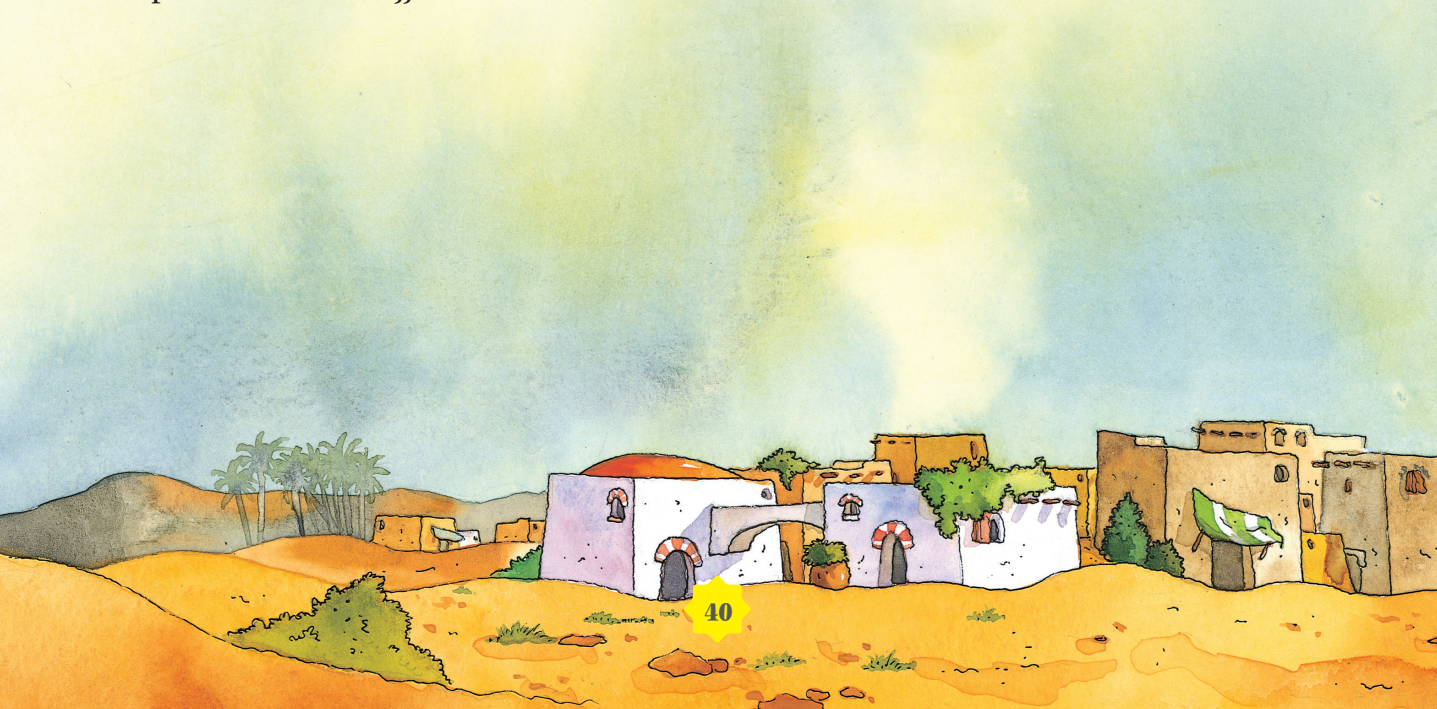
The Kabah's walls are about 50 feet high, two of them being 35 feet in length and the other two being 40 feet. It is made of graystone taken from the surrounding hills of Makkah. It stands upon a one-foot high a marble base. Its corners are known as *arkan*. The eastern corner is called *al-Rukn al-Aswad*, after the Black Stone. The other three corners are named after the countries they face. The southern corner, facing Yemen is called *al-Rukn al-Yamani*, the northern corner, facing Iraq is called *al-Rukn al-'Iraqi* and the western corner, facing Syria is called *al-Rukn al-Shami*.

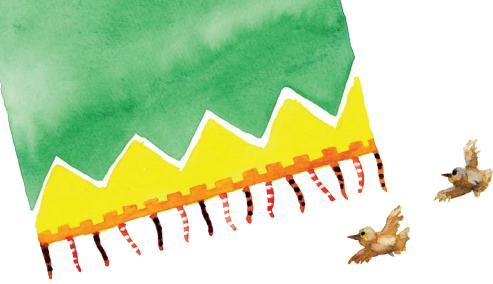
All the four walls of the Kabah are draped with a black brocaded covering called *kiswah*, meaning 'a robe,' which reaches to the ground where it is fastened with strong copper rings fixed in the *shadharwan* (the marble base).

The door of the Kabah is on its northern side, some seven feet above ground level. It is also covered with a similar curtain like the *kiswa*, but is called the *burqa* (the veil) and has *ayat* from the Quran upon it.

54. Makkah

Makkah, called the Mother of Cities in the Quran, is Islam's holiest city, towards which prayers are said five times every day by over a quarter of the world's population. Located in a valley in the Sirat Mountains 70 miles from the Red Sea coast of Saudi Arabia, Makkah derives its importance from the Kabah, which Allah ordered the Prophet Ibrahim to build, and also from the birth there of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, who brought the message of Islam. Millions of Muslims from different parts of the world travel each year to this holy city to perform their Hajj and Umrah.





But it is not always easy to interpret a dream, to tell what it means. The ordinary person could only guess, and as we shall see later in our story, even the wisest men of Egypt couldn't begin to fathom a strange dream the king had.

Only Yusuf had that insight. He explained that his ability to interpret dreams was one of the gifts he was given by God.

70. A Plot Is Hatched

Finally the brothers' resentment reached the boiling point, and they went off to the hills where nobody could hear or see them. They said to each other: "Yusuf and his younger brother are dearer to our father than ourselves, though we are so many. Truly, our father is very much mistaken. Let us slay Yusuf, or cast him away in some far-off land, so that we may have no rivals for our father's love, and after that be honorable men."

As in their evil hearts they debated how to rid themselves of Yusuf عليه السلام, one of the brothers who had a soft spot for Yusuf عليه السلام spoke out against killing him. "Do not slay Yusuf, but, if you must, rather cast him into a dark well. Some caravan will take him up," he said. They all liked the idea and agreed upon it. And they knew where just such a well was to be found. It was deep and had completely dried up.

But now, for their plot to succeed, they had to deceive their father. So they made a plan to go on a false hunting trip outside the village, and all of them came to their father and pretended to be very sincere.

71. Their Assurance

They said to their father Yaqub عليه السلام, "Dear Father! Why don't you trust us with Yusuf? We certainly wish him well. Send him with us tomorrow, so that he can play and enjoy himself." They assured their father that they would take good care of him. But Yaqub عليه السلام sensed some mischief, and was unwilling to agree.

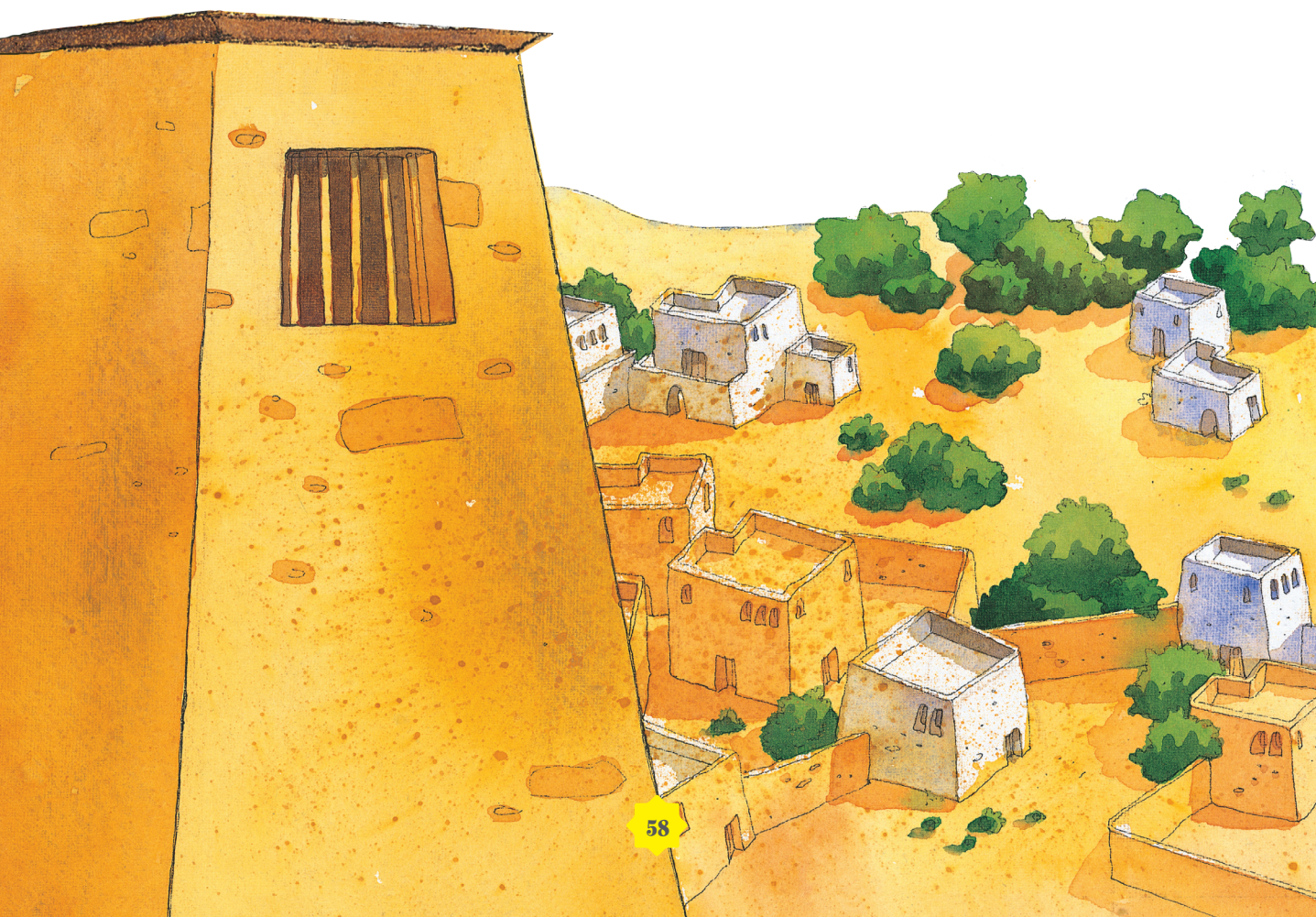
"I would feel very anxious if I let him go with you," said Yaqub عليه السلام, "in case some wolf came along and ate him up while you were off your guard." But the brothers persisted: "It would be shameful if the wolf devoured him while there are so many of us." They convinced Yaqub عليه السلام that ten strong, grown-up men would have to die before the wolf could touch young Yusuf!

82. Allah's Plan for Yusuf عليه السلام

When the caravan arrived, probably in the ancient city Memphis, Yusuf was sold for the paltry sum of 20 dirhams (small silver coins) to a nobleman, who took him into his service. The man who bought Yusuf was from the royal court and bore the title of Aziz (a title which was given to people of high rank such as governors). His name was Fitfir, or Potiphar.

The Aziz sensed immediately that there was something very special about this young man. Yusuf's handsome presence, his winning ways, his innocence, his intelligence and integrity, combined with his courtesy and noble manliness, greatly impressed the Aziz. A nobleman himself, the Aziz guessed that Yusuf must also be from a noble family. He, therefore, brought him home and instructed his wife to take good care of him, and asked her to treat him as an honored member of the household, adding that as they had no children, they might later on adopt him as a son.

Thus, according to Allah's plan, Yusuf عليه السلام was brought from a small village to the most advanced city of the age to be trained and to carry out some purposeful task.



وَمَا أُبْرِئُ نَفْسِي ۚ إِنَّ النَّفْسَ لَأَمَّارَةٌ بِالسُّوءِ
إِلَّا مَا رَحِمَ رَبِّي ۚ إِنَّ رَبِّي غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ ﴿٥٣﴾

I am not trying to absolve myself: for man's very soul incites him to evil unless my Lord bestows His mercy. Indeed, my Lord is forgiving and merciful.'

Yusuf 12:53

98. "What More Could We Ask For?"

When they were preparing to leave, Yusuf عليه السلام had their money and merchandise put back into their packs. The happy band left Egypt with enough provisions for the entire year.

When they got back home and opened up their packs and found that their money and merchandise had been returned to them, they were thrilled with the kindness and generosity the king's minister had shown them. Their opinion of the keeper of the storehouses soared, and they were emboldened to ask Yaqub عليه السلام if they could take Binyamin with them the next time.

"Oh father! What more could we ask for? Here is all our stuff — it has been returned to us!" they exclaimed to Yaqub عليه السلام. "If you will just send Binyamin with us, we shall again be able to bring food for our family. We promise to guard our brother well."

But Yaqub عليه السلام was reluctant. Though many years had passed, the memory of Yusuf was still fresh in his mind, and he could not bear the thought of losing another child.

99. The Next Year

A year later, when it was time to return to Egypt to obtain grain for the following year, Yaqub's sons came to their old father. The father feared for his son, remembering what had happened to Yusuf. He asked: "Shall I entrust him to you as I entrusted his brother?"

But they went on and on pleading with him. Their persistence and the urgent need for food finally made

Overwhelmed with gratitude to Allah for delivering him from prison, for reuniting him with his parents and for guiding his brothers back to the right path, Yusuf عليه السلام prostrated himself before Allah saying: “O my Lord! You have indeed bestowed on me power, and taught me the interpretation of dreams. O You Creator of the heavens and the earth! You are my Protector in this world and in the Hereafter. Take my soul at death as one submitting to Your will, and unite me with the righteous”. (12:101)

111. The Prophet Ayyub's Trial

A long time ago, in the land of Syria, there lived a man. His name was Ayyub, or Job. He loved Allah very much. And Allah made him very wise. And He made him a very rich man. He was also a prophet. The Prophet Ayyub had many fields. He had many sheep. His house was very big. There were many servants in the house.

And his children were very good. The Prophet Ayyub knew that everything came from Allah. He knew that Allah gave him fields, sheep and money. He prayed to Allah, thanking Him for the gifts.

The village people said: “It is easy for Ayyub to love Allah. It is easy for him to pray every day. He is rich and he has a lot of time. We are poor. We don't have beautiful houses and fields.

If Ayyub were poor like us, he would never love Allah so much! He would not pray all the time!” Allah wanted to show people that they were wrong, so He tested the Prophet Ayyub. He wanted to show them that the Prophet Ayyub would never stop loving Him. So He put the Prophet Ayyub to the test.

One day, the Prophet Ayyub's sheep got lost. The next day, all the water in the



Allah warned, through His messengers, that such falsehoods against Him would destroy their perpetrators. And His warnings came true, in the form of a series of plagues.

135. The Pride of Firawn

Firawn looked down from his throne at the two men from the Children of Israel, whom he considered his slaves. He spoke rudely, reminding Musa عليه السلام that he had killed an Egyptian: “Did we not bring you up when you were an infant? And did you not stay several years of your life among us? Yet you have done what you have done; surely you are ungrateful.”

Prophet Musa عليه السلام replied, “Indeed I did that then, being one of those that stray; so I fled from you. But my Lord gave me Judgement and made me one of the Prophets. And this is the favour with which you reproach me. But you have made the Children of Israel your slaves.”

Again Firawn repeated his first question: “Who is the Lord of the universe?” And Musa عليه السلام replied, “He is the Lord of the heavens and the earth and all that lies between them. If only you had faith!” (26:23)

“Do you hear this?!” bellowed Firawn to his courtiers. No one had ever dared to say such words in front of him.

136. Firawn Gets Angry

Musa عليه السلام continued, “He is your Lord and the Lord of your forefathers.” Firawn interrupted with a sneer: “Surely your Messenger who was sent to you is possessed!”

Musa عليه السلام persisted calmly: “He is the Lord of the East and West, and what is between them, if you have understanding.”

Firawn flew into a rage, shouting: “If you believe in a god other than me, I will surely imprison you!”

“Even if I showed you clear and convincing signs?” asked Musa عليه السلام.

“Show us your signs, if what you say be true!” thundered Firawn.

156. A Quranic Prediction

Describing Firawn's death, the Quran says: "This day We will save your body, so that you will become a sign for your successors." (10:92)

This prediction is surprising, because at the time of revelation in the seventh century A.D., a belief dating back 2000 years had prevailed throughout the Holy Land that Firawn and his army had all been drowned on the fateful day when they were pursuing Musa ﷺ and the Children of Israel across the Red Sea.

"And the waters returned, and covered the chariots, and the horsemen, and all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them; there remained not so much as one of them." (Exodus, 14:28).

No one knew that Firawn's body (*badan*) really was intact, and nearly 1400 years had to pass before this fact finally came to light! It was not until 1898 that Professor Loret found in the ancient Egyptian city of Thebes the 3000 year old mummified remains of Firawn Merenptah, who was in power when Musa ﷺ returned from Madyan with the Lord's message. He thus proved the accuracy of the Quran.

On July 8, 1907, the archeologist Elliot Smith examined the remains in a careful scientific way. In 1912 he published a book called *The Royal Mummies*, offering proof that the mummy discovered by Loret was indeed that of Firawn, who "knew Moses, resisted his pleas, pursued him as he took flight, and lost his life in the process." This discovery is a powerful reminder that Allah is a Being both All-Knowing and All-Powerful.

157. Food from Allah

The Children of Israel breathed sighs of relief. They sang songs of praise to their Lord. At last they were truly free of Firawn. They were very thankful to Allah for His miraculous favour.



170. Yusha' bin Nun

The Quran mentions Yusha bin Nun (Joshua) twice, though without naming him, as the young disciple of the Prophet Musa (Moses), who accompanied him when he went on a long journey to meet Al-Khidr. The Prophet Musa عليه السلام wanted to take the Children of Israel into the holy land, but they did not want to go because they were scared to fight the giants (the Amalekites) who lived there. It was only Yusha bin Nun and Kalab (Caleb) who encouraged them to go. They pleaded for immediate entry. Yusha bin Nun and Kalab said that they must put their trust in Allah for victory and should go inside from the proper entrance. But the Children of Israel refused to enter the holy land as they were scared to fight due to their lack of faith in Allah. They wandered homeless for 40 years. Yusha bin Nun became the leader of the Children of Israel after the Prophet Musa. Later it was Yusha bin Nun, who led the Children of Israel to fight the Amalekites, ultimately conquering Palestine and Syria and entered the holy land. (*Al-Ma'idah*, 5:23)

171. Meeting al-Khidr

During the long journey to the Promised Land, Prophet Musa عليه السلام too learned many lessons. One of these was from al-Khidr ("the green one"). Probably an angel in the form of a man, al-Khidr had special knowledge and the power to make great changes in the affairs of the world.

Musa عليه السلام set out with his young disciple, Yusha bin Nun. At a certain point the fish they were carrying to eat revived and slipped away into the sea. As predicted, this is where they found al-Khidr.

"May I follow you, and be guided by your knowledge?" Musa عليه السلام asked al-Khidr. "Impossible!" said al-Khidr, "For how can you tolerate what is beyond your knowledge?"



وَإِنْ يَمَسَّكَ اللَّهُ يَضُرَّ فَلَا كَاشِفَ لَهُ إِلَّا هُوَ وَإِنْ يَمَسَّكَ خَيْرٌ فَهُوَ
عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ ﴿١٧﴾ وَهُوَ الْقَاهِرُ فَوْقَ عِبَادِهِ ۚ وَهُوَ الْحَكِيمُ الْخَبِيرُ ﴿١٨﴾

If God should let any harm touch you, no one could remove it except He; while if He should let some good touch you, know that He has the power to do all that He wills. He reigns Supreme over His servants; and He is the All Wise, the All Aware.

Al-An'am 6:17-18

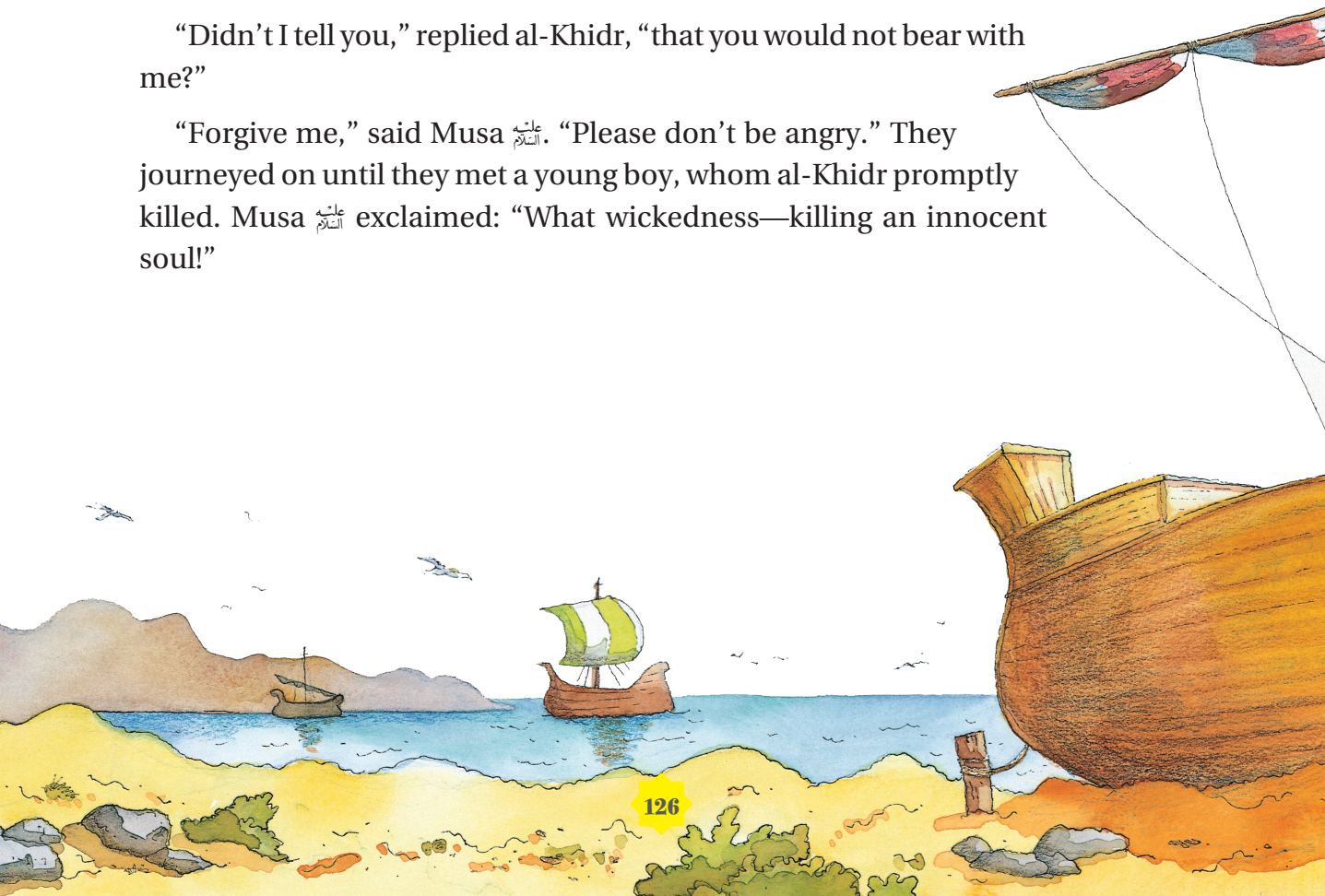
Musa عليه السلام replied: "If Allah will, you shall find me patient: I shall in no way cross you." Al-Khidr agreed but warned Musa عليه السلام not to question him about anything until he mentioned it himself.

172. The Prophet Musa عليه السلام Travels with Al-Khidr

The two then embarked upon a ship, whereupon al-Khidr bored a hole in it. Musa عليه السلام exclaimed: "Do you want to drown the passengers?"

"Didn't I tell you," replied al-Khidr, "that you would not bear with me?"

"Forgive me," said Musa عليه السلام. "Please don't be angry." They journeyed on until they met a young boy, whom al-Khidr promptly killed. Musa عليه السلام exclaimed: "What wickedness—killing an innocent soul!"





183. The Story of Ninety-nine Sheep

Once, when he was praying in his private room, two men with a grudge against each other broke in by climbing over the wall. He was taken aback, but they pleaded that they had come only to see justice done. One of them said, “We are brothers and we have a quarrel, which we want you to settle.” The other said, “This man is my brother. He has ninety-nine sheep, and I have only one. Yet he tells me to hand it over to him. And that is not all. He speaks harshly to me.”

At first, Dawud عليه السلام believed everything they said, and began preaching to them, but no sooner had he begun, than they left as miraculously as they had come. Dawud عليه السلام then realised that this was meant to teach him something about himself. He immediately fell down on the ground before Allah and asked for His forgiveness.

It is believed that the two men fighting with each other were angels sent by Allah to warn him by acting out a parable.

184. An Equitable Decision

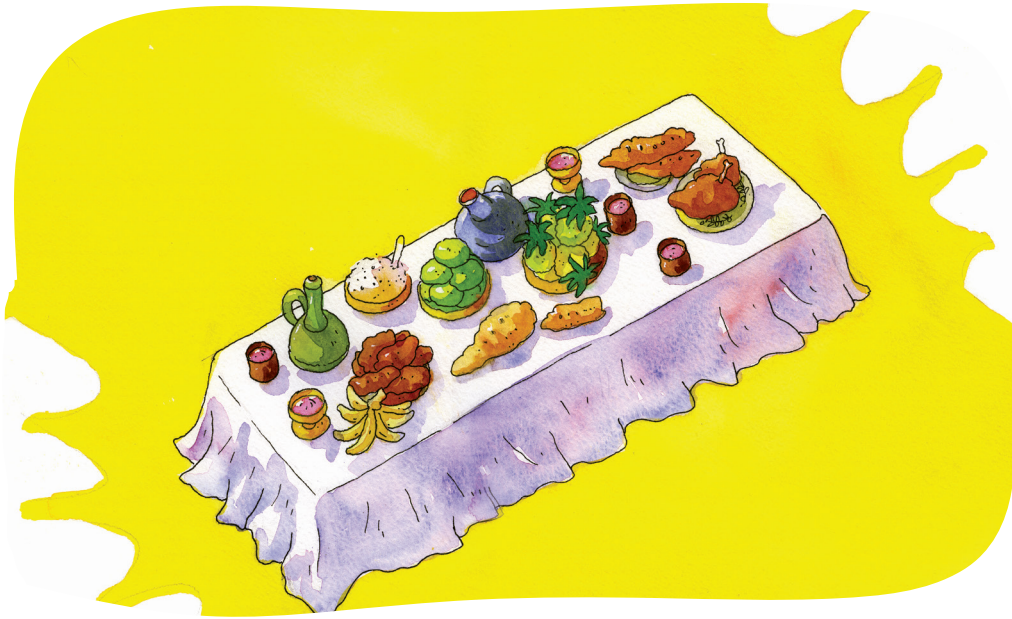
The Prophet Sulayman عليه السلام was the son of the Prophet Dawud عليه السلام. He was a mighty king and ruled Jerusalem. He was given wonderful powers by Allah. As a child, Sulayman عليه السلام showed wisdom and intelligence. At a very young age he surprised his father with his ideas about the rule of law.

It was when two angry men came to see Dawud عليه السلام. One of them said, “I had a beautiful field full of crops. This man’s sheep entered it and destroyed all my plants.”

Dawud عليه السلام said that the owner of the field was in the right and that he should take the sheep to make up for his loss. But Sulayman عليه السلام, who was a boy at that time, gave a better solution to the problem. “I would like to suggest,” said Sulayman عليه السلام “that the sheep be given to the owner of the field, who will use their milk and wool.”

“After a while when the crops are fully grown, the sheep will be returned to their owner.” In this way Sulayman عليه السلام showed the difference between what was owned and what could be earned from it.

When Sulayman عليه السلام grew up, he was blessed with prophethood and became the king too. Allah gave him special knowledge.



But the disciples ignored his words. They insisted: “We want to eat some food sent from heaven by Allah.” The Prophet Isa said to Allah: “Send down to us from heaven a table spread with food, that shall be for us a festival, the first and last of us, and a sign from You. And provide for us. You are the Best Provider.”

Allah said: “I am sending you a table spread with food. But I will punish you if you do not believe Me after this. I will punish you more than any man has been punished ever before.”

200. Allah Raised Isa ^{عليه السلام} to Himself

Isa was a prophet of Allah. He taught people how to love Allah. But in the end, only a few people followed the Prophet Isa . Only some people saw the signs of Allah. There were some wicked people who disliked the Prophet Isa so much that they wanted to kill him.

But Allah saved him and took him up to heaven. The wicked people thought they had killed the Prophet Isa but they had killed another man by mistake. Allah looks after His messengers. He looked after the Prophet Isa and saved him from his enemies. The Prophet Isa continued his mission for several years, but only a few answered his call. The Children of Israel wanted to crucify him. But Allah saved him and they crucified another man, who was made to appear like him.

The very next day a terrible thing happened. The rich man's garden was destroyed. Bunches of ripe grapes were ripped from the branches and fell to the ground. The rich man looked at his ruined garden and cried: "I shouldn't have been proud! Why didn't I thank Allah? Why wasn't I grateful?"

He turned to Allah for help. It was too late to save his garden, but not too late to save his soul. This story is meant to teach believers never to speak proudly, but to say in all humility: "Whatever Allah has ordained must surely come to pass: there is no power save with Allah."

211. "Be Kind to Your Parents"

After his duty towards his Lord, the first duty of an individual is towards his parents. Numerous passages in the Quran and sayings of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ enjoin the believer to be good and courteous to his parents. This duty is an even greater necessity when the parents enter upon old age.

Thus the Quran reminds us: "And be kind to your parents. If one or both of them attain old age with you, do not utter a word of contempt and show them no sign of impatience but speak to them kind words. Treat them with humility and tenderness..."

The Quran urges us to pray for our parents: "Lord, bestow Your mercy on them, as they raised me up when I was little."

We are reminded of our parents' painstaking care in our upbringing, especially that of our mother: "We enjoined man to show kindness to his parents, for with much pain his mother bears him, and he is not weaned before he is two years of age."

Perhaps this was the reason that the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ accorded great status to mothers. A man once came to the Prophet and said, "I have been intending to enlist in the fighting force and have come to consult you." "Have you a mother?" asked the Prophet. "Yes" said the man. "Then be with her," said the noble Prophet "for Paradise lies at her feet." (That means by serving your mother you can earn Paradise).





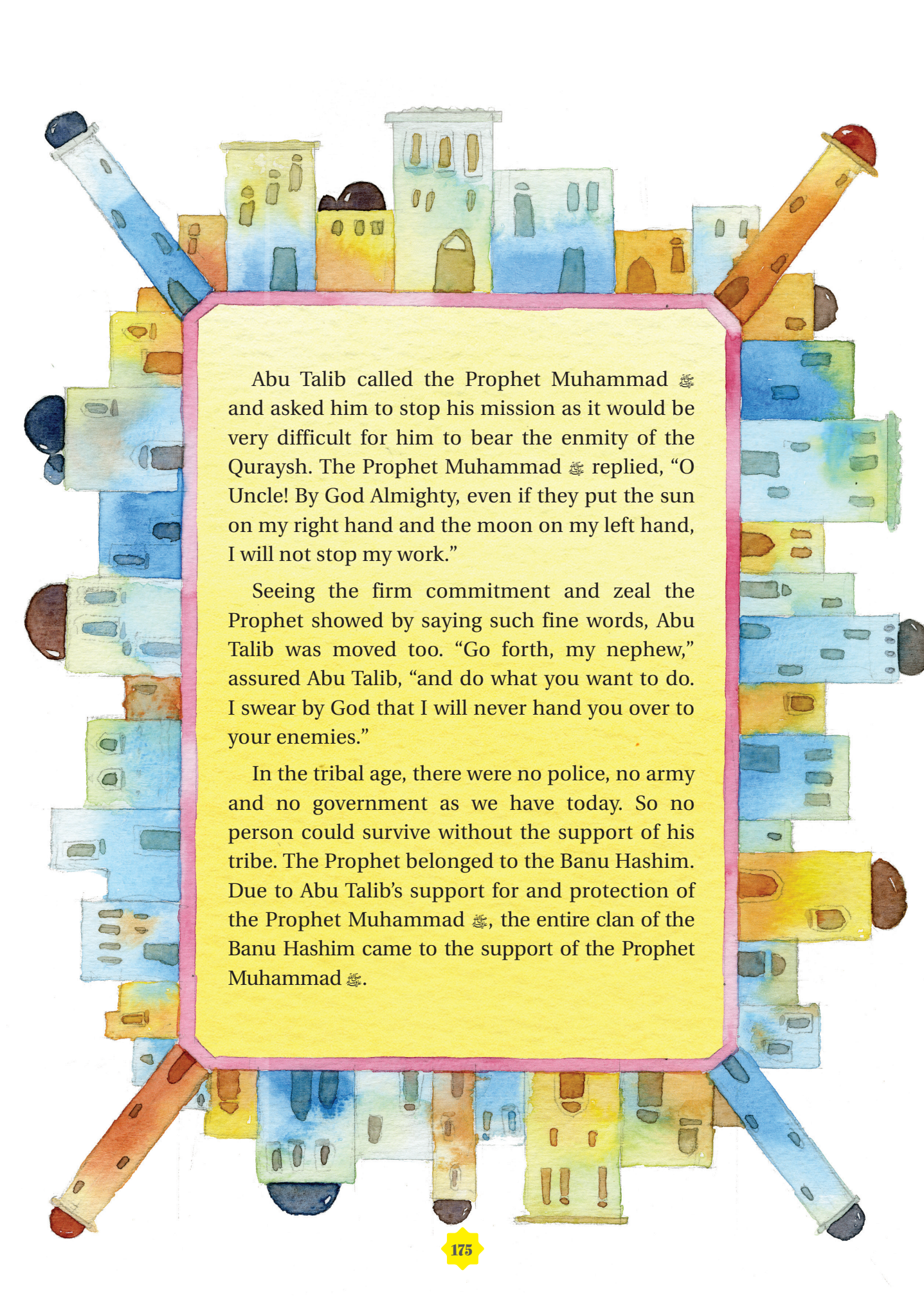
will become the last Prophet.” He further told Abu Talib to return to Makkah quickly, because if people saw him they might recognize him and try to harm him.

Hearing the words of Buhaira, Abu Talib quickly sold his goods in the Syrian markets and lost no time in returning to Makkah. His main concern was the safety of his nephew, Muhammad.

225. The Second Visit to Syria

When the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ grew up and attained his youth, he became known as an honest and hardworking man. Due to these qualities, Khadija, daughter of Khuwaylid, hired him to go to Syria to sell her goods in the Syrian trade markets.

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was happy with the opportunity and looked forward to the new venture. He was twenty-five years old and full of enthusiasm. He wanted to make something of himself and was proud to be in charge of a caravan of many camels loaded with precious goods. He was confident that he would manage the long journey and sell the goods in Syria at a good profit. He wanted to prove himself and show that he could do his job well.



Abu Talib called the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and asked him to stop his mission as it would be very difficult for him to bear the enmity of the Quraysh. The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ replied, "O Uncle! By God Almighty, even if they put the sun on my right hand and the moon on my left hand, I will not stop my work."

Seeing the firm commitment and zeal the Prophet showed by saying such fine words, Abu Talib was moved too. "Go forth, my nephew," assured Abu Talib, "and do what you want to do. I swear by God that I will never hand you over to your enemies."

In the tribal age, there were no police, no army and no government as we have today. So no person could survive without the support of his tribe. The Prophet belonged to the Banu Hashim. Due to Abu Talib's support for and protection of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, the entire clan of the Banu Hashim came to the support of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

loved Allah best. They said: "Yes. We are Muslims. We believe in Allah and His Prophet. Do what you like."

When 'Umar saw that he had hurt his sister, he became ashamed. He said to her: "Give me that paper. Let me read what is written there."

240. The Effect of *Surah Ta Ha*

She handed him over the paper on which, *Surah Ta Ha* was written. He started reading it. When he reached verse 14, "I am Allah. There is no deity save Me; so worship Me alone, and say your prayers in My remembrance", he felt as if these verses were addressed to him in person and Allah was talking to him. He immediately decided not to lose any more time in following the truth. He turned to his sister and brother-in-law and said, "I came to you as an enemy of Islam; I go from you as a friend of Islam. I buckled on this sword to slay the Prophet of Islam; I now go to him to offer my allegiance." Fatima and Sa'id called out, "*Allahu Akbar!*" (God is great!) 'Umar turned around and went to meet the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. He said to him: "O Messenger of Allah, I have come to tell you that I believe in Allah." The Prophet embraced him. Thus Islam was strengthened by 'Umar ibn al-Khattab becoming a Muslim.



241. Uthman ibn Affan

Uthman was one of the most prosperous and well-known men of Makkah. He had inherited a great deal of wealth from his father. Like his father, he became a merchant. His straightforwardness and business skills soon made him one of the richest men among the Quraysh, the tribe to which the Prophet, too, belonged. Soon, he came to be known as Uthman Ghani or 'Uthman the Rich'.

Uthman was known for his modesty and good character. Even before becoming a Muslim, he never gambled or drank wine. He led a simple life. Whenever he could, he helped widows, orphans and the poor. He was kind to his relatives.

an official announcement to all the people of Makkah. According to this Declaration: 1. No inhabitant of Makkah was allowed to talk to any Muslim, male or female. 2. No inhabitant of Makkah was allowed to shake hands with any Muslim. 3. No inhabitant of Makkah had the right to buy anything from Muslims or to sell anything to them. 4. No inhabitant of Makkah had the right to marry a Muslim girl or to give his daughter in marriage to a Muslim. 5. Anyone who had taken a loan from any Muslim was exempted from paying it back to him.

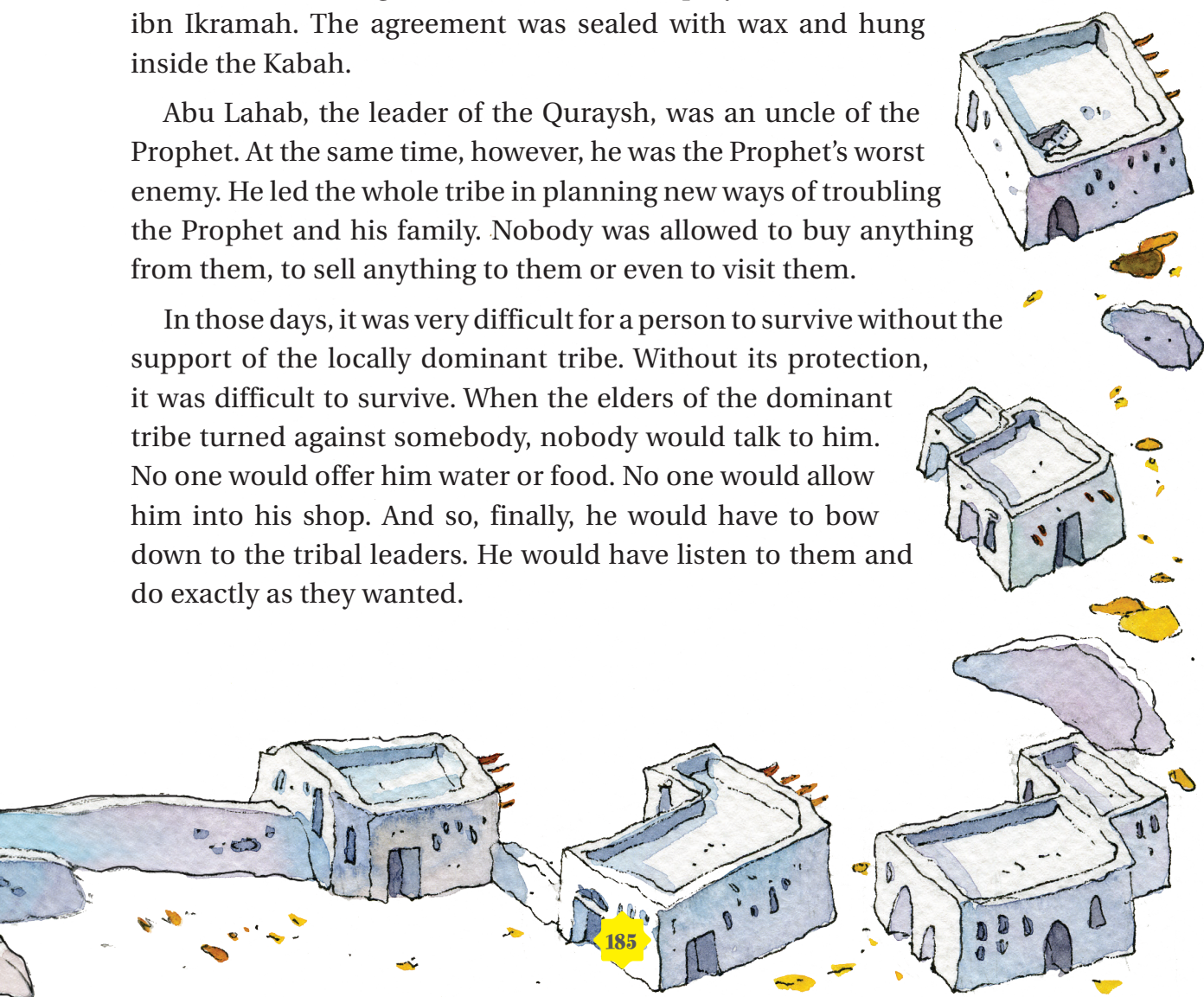
249. The Boycott Declaration

The Quraysh announced that this declaration would remain in force till the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ abandoned his religion or the Banu Hashim stopped protecting him, so that the Quraysh could kill him.

The text of the agreement was written up by a man called Mansur ibn Ikramah. The agreement was sealed with wax and hung inside the Kabah.

Abu Lahab, the leader of the Quraysh, was an uncle of the Prophet. At the same time, however, he was the Prophet's worst enemy. He led the whole tribe in planning new ways of troubling the Prophet and his family. Nobody was allowed to buy anything from them, to sell anything to them or even to visit them.

In those days, it was very difficult for a person to survive without the support of the locally dominant tribe. Without its protection, it was difficult to survive. When the elders of the dominant tribe turned against somebody, nobody would talk to him. No one would offer him water or food. No one would allow him into his shop. And so, finally, he would have to bow down to the tribal leaders. He would have listen to them and do exactly as they wanted.



اللَّهُمَّ افْتَحْ لِي أَبْوَابَ رَحْمَتِكَ.

O Allah, open for me the doors of Your mercy.

of the Prophet believed in what the Prophet said. It became a source of conviction to them and strengthened their *iman* or faith.

The leaders of Makkah said to the Prophet, “O Muhammad if you say that you went to Jerusalem in one night and returned the same night.” “If this is true,” they continued, “then tell us how did Jerusalem look like.”

The Prophet got little nervous, as he did not remember how the city of Jerusalem looked like. In his anguish, the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ prayed to Allah for help. All of a sudden the Angel Jibril appeared to him (only the Prophet was able to see him).

The Angel Jibril brought in his hands the map of Jerusalem, which he put in front of the Prophet (the map was visible only to the Prophet).

The leaders of Makkah kept on asking the Prophet about Jerusalem and he replied them seeing the map brought by Jibril.

265. The Purpose of Mi'raj

Allah's purpose of Mir'aj was to show the Prophet a glimpse of the Unseen World as the Quran says: “We might show him some of Our signs.” (*Al-Isra*, 17:1). Among these signs, there were things such as angels, Paradise and Hell etc. Allah shows His prophets these signs through direct observation. So that their conviction and realization increases and they could do their mission of dawah work with full devotion and dedication.

Through this unique experience, the Prophet was indirectly told that though the situation of Makkah seems very difficult and hard to bear. Though the immediate audience of Makkah failed to understand the message of Prophet, but a time will come when the mission of the Prophet will reach far and wide and will enter each hearth and home on the globe. Therefore, the Prophet said there will be not a single home or hearth left on the face of the globe where the word of Islam will not enter. This was a prediction of the Prophet, that in future, fast ways of communication such as internet and travelling by aeroplanes will

This march was conducted in complete secrecy. Only when they encamped a few miles from the city did the Makkans come to know of their arrival. The Makkans were completely taken by surprise. Faced with this numerical strength, the Makkans found themselves helpless.

Therefore, they conceded their defeat without any resistance. Makkah was thus conquered without any armed encounter. The Muslims had strict orders to shed no blood. The Makkans were told that they would be safe if they kept indoors or took refuge in the Kabah or in Abu Sufyan's house.

After the conquest of Makkah, the Kabah was purified of all the idols which had been placed in it. Then Bilal, the Negro Companion of the Prophet, went up on to the roof of the Kabah and gave the call to prayer (*adhan*). Then the companions said the thanks giving prayer, led by the Prophet.

275. The Farewell Pilgrimage

After having consolidated the power of Islam in Arabia, the Prophet set out to perform *Hajjatul Wada'*, his Farewell Pilgrimage. It was the last year of his life. He left Madinah for Makkah accompanied by Madinian Muslims. When the news spread that the Prophet was going to perform the pilgrimage, various tribes living in Arabia began pouring into Makkah. Therefore when the Prophet of Islam performed his first as well as his last pilgrimage, he was joined by nearly 125,000 Muslims. During this pilgrimage the revelations about the rules of the hajj were given to him. These are followed by all Muslims to this day.

When the Prophet arrived at Mount Arafat, he imparted some teachings to the people present on that occasion. These are preserved in the form of the "Final Sermon."



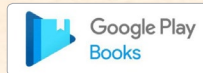
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